



31st October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, the use of social media and messaging services among young people continues to grow in popularity. Unfortunately, many young people do not take simple precautions to protect themselves and moderate their own behaviour when they are online.

Of particular concern is the lack of management of location data in applications such as Snapchat. In this example, unless the settings are managed, the application allows other users/"friends" to identify the precise map location of a user. This clearly carries risks and safeguarding concerns.

We would like your support communicating the message to our pupils that there are rules and behaviours to adhere to on social networks, so that it makes them safe online. There are many ways parents and carers can do this: from having an open conversation with your child and helping them manage their privacy and security settings to monitoring internet use on devices at home.

If you would like to find out more about these issues then you may be interested in attending the **Online Safety Parent Information Evening** on **22nd November 2017 6pm – 7pm**, in our Sixth Form Common Room. If you wish to attend, you can either sign-up through the web-form in the parent section of the school website, or ask your child to sign the attend register available at their Year Leader's office.

Additionally, if you are concerned about your child's access to online social media, or specific incidents, the "Online Safety" link in the menu of the Parent Section of the WGA website offers a range of ideas, advice and links to support. Parents and students can also use the "Speak Out" link in the Student section of the website to message Wood Green Academy directly regarding any urgent matter linked to safeguarding. If you have a serious concern regarding online abuse and/or inappropriate activity, this can be reported to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) command at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>. Links to CEOP can often be found within social media sites.

Look for this logo:



Thank you for your continuing support of your child's education and online safety.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Murray

Head of eLearning

